

Appendix H: Kremmling Field Office Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

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* This assessment will be signed as final upon approval of the Final Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision.

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Introduction

A. Land Use Planning Process

Through the land use planning process, BLM will consider all available information to determine the mix of resource use and protection that best serves the FLPMA multiple use mandate. BLM has authority under FLPMA to maintain inventories of all public lands and their resources, including wilderness characteristics, and to consider such information during the land use planning process.

Through this assessment, the KFO is meeting its obligations for updating and maintaining its inventory of wilderness resources under sections 102, 201, and 202 of FLPMA. BLM's 1601-1-Land Use Planning Handbook, identifies broad scale decisions that guide future land management actions and subsequent site specific implementation decisions. Specifically, BLM Handbook 1610-1 - Appendix C - Part K - Wilderness Characteristics directs Field Offices to identify decisions to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation).

Through this RMP planning revision, the KFO will determine which portions of BLM lands with wilderness characteristics will be protected or preserved through management prescriptions, stipulations and allowable uses (see *Management and Setting Prescriptions for Wilderness Characteristics* section at the end of this Assessment). KFO will also analyze the impacts of land management decisions on lands with wilderness characteristics.

B. Scope of Assessment

This assessment is intended to provide an evaluation of wilderness characteristics on BLM lands within the KFO, outside of existing WSAs. This process has been designed to look at all KFO lands, specifically: (1) to update data and ensure environmental impacts of alternatives on BLM land with wilderness characteristics are adequately analyzed; and (2) to address proposals from the public to inventory and protect BLM lands with wilderness characteristics.

For the purpose of this assessment, all lands underwent a review regarding whether or not the areas are roadless. "Roadless" definition refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. BLM reviewed externally submitted wilderness proposals, BLM records, and other information on area routes to determine which areas in the KFO are roadless. The findings of this review are documented under the "Findings" section for those individual units.

Proposals involving lands entirely within existing WSA's were not assessed. Lands outside or adjacent to WSAs were within the scope of this assessment. This assessment does not

include National Forest System lands, and with the exception of the Platte River Contiguous WSA, there are no BLM-managed public lands in the Planning Area adjacent to existing USFS-designated Wilderness Areas. The existing three designated WSA's will continue to be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics in accordance with BLM Manual 6330, Management of Wilderness Study Areas (BLM 2012f), until Congress designates them as wilderness or releases them for other uses (see WSA section). If these existing WSAs are released, they will be managed under the prescriptions specified in the Approved RMP (Approved Plan).

C. Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

This assessment addresses the following; “Does the area contain wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation)?”

C.1. Naturalness

Do the lands and resources exhibit a high degree of naturalness? Are the lands affected primarily by the forces of nature? Is the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable?

An area's naturalness may be influenced by the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences or other developments; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats. Wildlife species are recognized as an indicator of naturalness.

C.2. Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation.

Do visitors have outstanding opportunities for solitude, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Are the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people rare or infrequent? Can visitors feel isolated, alone or secluded from others? Is the use of the area primarily through non-motorized or non-mechanical means with no or minimal recreation facilities?

D. Review of Past Wilderness Inventories

The KFO reviewed the original BLM wilderness inventory reports and maps from 1979 and 1980 for the entire public land base of the Kremmling Field Office. The findings from the 1979 and 1980 inventory reports were found to remain valid, and the review indicated that there have been additional impacts to the landscape over time. This review also prompted the KFO to determine if there was any new information that was not considered as part of the original inventories, or new information that has emerged since the original inventories. The KFO did find new information which resulted in an assessment of two new areas, Drowsy Water and Strawberry. The new information included the acquisition of additional lands

(Strawberry), and changes to the landscape that may provide a high degree of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation (Drowsy Water). Opinions as to what constitute solitude and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation change as the larger landscape experiences more development and more people. There also has been an increase in interest in looking at natural systems and features found in lower elevation environments and expanding the diversity of the wilderness preservation system. Therefore, some information submitted by the public was considered “new information” based on changed physical conditions, diversity within the wilderness preservation system, and changed social perceptions of wilderness characteristics that have occurred over time.

E. Review of Public Wilderness Proposals

Numerous external groups have varying interests and have advocated wilderness designations through legislation and through participation in the land use planning processes. Proposal areas and acreage figures have changed over time. This assessment included consideration of the most recent proposal submitted to the BLM for consideration of protection of wilderness characteristics. The most recent proposal was submitted to the BLM in May of 2007, by the Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC), the Wilderness Society, American Rivers, Inc., Center for Native Ecosystems, Colorado Mountain Club, and the Wilderness Workshop. The proposal contains wilderness inventories completed by these groups on an area by area basis, wilderness designation justifications and a statewide wilderness proposal. Earlier submissions were received from CEC in 1994, 2000, and 2001.

F. Specific Documents and Data Utilized for the Assessment

- Colorado Environmental Coalition(CEC) written proposal and boundary shape files (5/2/07)
- Range improvements
- KFO Transportation Inventory 2002-2011(GIS)
- CDOW NDIS Data 12/2006 (GIS)
- CNHP L1 EOR point data 9/2006 (GIS)
- NAIP aerial photos (GIS)
- KFO cultural resources Class I Overview, cultural base maps and files
- KFO road maintenance records
- KFO range allotment management files
- BLM’s LR2000 data base for ROW’s, Mineral Claims, Oil and Gas leasing etc.
- BLM. *Craig District White River, Kremmling, and Little Snake Resource Areas. Wilderness EIS*, Nov. 1990 Field Investigations

- KFO-Recreation Setting Character Condition Maps

This assessment documents all identified valid existing rights (e.g. water rights), grandfathered uses (e.g. the Rabbits Ears Creek Irrigation Ditch), and public land investments. Field reviews, except for the Yarmony Mountain Assessment Area (see H. below), were conducted in September 2009.

G. Areas Considered for Assessment

Table 1 shows all the areas within the KFO that were considered as part of this assessment.

Table 1: KFO Assessment Areas

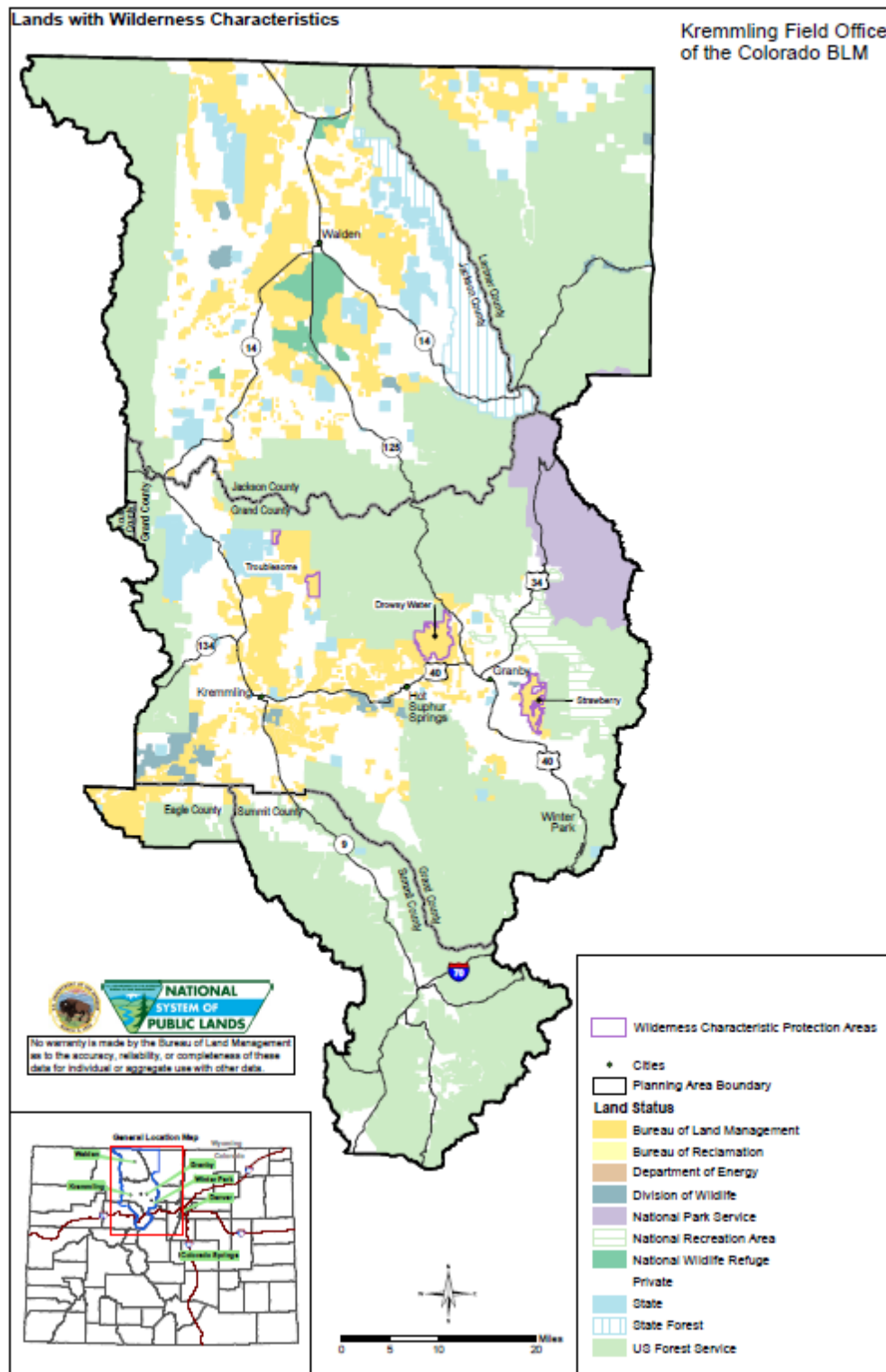
Name	Public Wilderness Proposal Acreage*	Acres in existing WSAs	Acres Analyzed
Troublesome	11,771	8,158	3,613
Drowsy Water	0	0	7,508
Strawberry	0	0	5,834
Yarmony Mountain	0	0	0

* Reflects total BLM acreage that was submitted by Colorado Environmental Coalition 1/30/08, reflects the 2007 public wilderness proposal, and includes acreage within existing BLM WSA's. Acreage figures within GIS mapping can vary due to rounding errors and different mapping techniques.

H. Areas Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Evaluation

The Yarmony Mountain area is the only area that was dropped from detailed evaluation. The 1980 Intensive Inventory findings are still relevant for this area. At the time, the original inventory identified 12 miles of route in the area. There are now 57 miles of routes in the area. Since the original inventory, Rights-of-Way have been granted on several of these routes. The original inventory found the area's naturalness was significantly impacted by the presence of the routes. The increase in the number and miles of routes in the area has further impacted the area's naturalness. Additionally, the original inventory found that opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were impacted by the presence of the routes. Given the five-fold increase in route proliferation, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are even more impacted today.

Map H-1





Wilderness Characteristic Assessment

Area 1 - Troublesome

1.1. Area Description

The area is located in Grand County, approximately 20 miles north of Kremmling. The assessed area is on the south slope of the Park Range and is bounded by private lands on the west and south. US Forest Service lands administered by the Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest border the area on the east and north. Reports from external proponents suggest the larger proposed area “provides an intact forested bridge between Rocky Mountain National Park and the wilderness areas of the Park Range, which preserves the ability of far-ranging species to migrate and disperse.” (CWP, 2001)

1.2. Background

The area assessed in this appendix was included as part of the BLM’s Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 and later as part of the Intensive Wilderness inventory process in 1980. The Final Initial Inventory Decision (8/31/79) identified 11,771 acres to be intensively inventoried. Following the intensive inventory field work, 8,158 acres were established as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (*BLM, Intensive Wilderness Inventory, Final Wilderness Study Areas, November 1980*). The remaining 3,613 acres were not designated as a WSA.

The rationale for excluding these acres from the WSA was the impact to naturalness caused by the boundary roads on the west and south side of the WSA. The western boundary road of the WSA provides access to irrigation improvements, and the southern boundary road of the WSA provides access to a private in holding and a reservoir on adjacent national forest lands.

US Forest Service lands adjacent to the assessed area were inventoried as part of the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). The 1997 Routt National Forest Plan did not recommend the inventoried roadless acres for wilderness designation. The roadless acres have been included in the draft Colorado Roadless Rule EIS for submission with other Colorado roadless areas to the Secretary of Agriculture.

1.3. Landscape Characteristics and Issues

1.3.1 Land Ownership and Acreage

The Troublesome WSA includes 8,158 acres of contiguous public land with a private in-holding of 625 acres located in the southern portion of the area. The area identified in the external wilderness proposal outside the WSA is an additional 3,613 acres of BLM public lands on the west and south of the WSA. Of this 3,613 acres, 522 acres were dropped from this assessment due to the impact of a road along the western boundary of the WSA that continues to be used to access range improvements and for maintenance of the Rabbit Ears Creek Irrigation Ditch; and 746 acres were dropped due to motorized impacts from the Bighorn Subdivision in the southern part of the area. Both of these impacts affect the naturalness and opportunity for solitude in these areas, leaving 544 acres in the northern portion and 1,801 acres in the southern portion subject to the assessment that follows.

1.3.2 Topography

The Troublesome Unit represents rugged, mountainous terrain varying in elevation from 8,000 to 10,800 feet. The terrain consists of gentle, rolling foothills in the lower elevations giving way to steep drainages and high, prominent ridges at higher elevations.

1.3.3 Vegetation

Most of the unit is forested with lodgepole pine, spruce, fir, and aspen. Vegetative variety is enhanced by the riparian habitat along the streams.

1.3.4 Existing Issues

The entire Troublesome area is difficult for the public to access. Private property blocks access on the south and west sides of the area, and there are no public access roads through the adjacent forest lands to reach the north and east side of the area. As a result, the area has very little visitation. The area is primarily used by the grazing permittees during the grazing season and big game hunters during the fall hunting seasons. A temporary travel closure was implemented in 2006 to address resource damage caused by OHV use from the adjacent landowners and big game hunters with access through private lands. BLM has limited access through private lands, and as a result monitoring and enforcement in the area has been challenging.

The current mountain pine beetle epidemic has impacted the lodgepole pine in the unit. BLM estimates suggest 75 - 80% of the lodgepole pine in the unit are either dead or will die as a result of the epidemic.

1.4. Current Management Allocations/Prescriptions

1.4.1 Travel

The 1984 RMP travel management decisions designated the BLM lands outside the Troublesome WSA as open to cross country travel. All motorized travel in the area is currently closed under the 2006 Temporary Closure order until travel management decisions are completed in conjunction with completion of the RMP revision (estimated 2012).

1.4.2 Visual Resource Management

The 1984 RMP did not designate visual resource management (VRM) classes. Visual resources have been managed to protect the visual resource inventory (VRI) adopted as part of the 1984 RMP. As part of the current revision of the RMP, the VRI has been updated. All the evaluated lands in the Troublesome area have been inventoried as visual resource Class II.

1.4.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers

The 2007 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Report that was prepared for the current RMP revision included Rabbit Ears Creek which borders the northern parcel that is evaluated in this assessment. The outstanding remarkable value that was identified in the report consists of the geological features created as a result of volcanic activity.

1.4.4 Recreation Setting Character Conditions (RSCCs)

The physical qualities of the landscape can be classified and mapped looking at a spectrum of RSCC classes based on distance from motorized and mechanized routes. Using the existing KFO GIS transportation data, the RSCC mapping shows 40% classified as back country, 36% classified as middle country and the remaining 24% classified as front country (see *Recreation Setting Character Conditions Matrix and Map* at the end of this Assessment).

1.4.5 Grazing

Livestock grazing occurs on two allotments with 2 permittees. There are no known range improvements within the unit.

1.4.6 Realty and Rights of Ways (ROWs)

There is one perpetual Right-of-Way for an irrigation ditch (Rabbit Ears Creek) in the northern parcel. The ROW is 26 feet wide and was excluded from the assessed area.

1.4.7 Oil and Gas Leasing

The assessment area is open to leasing. There are no active oil and gas leases in the assessed area. The entire northern parcel and most of the southern parcel are mapped as low potential for oil and gas. A small portion of the southern parcel is mapped as no potential for oil and gas.

1.4.8 Minerals

The area is open to mineral entry.

1.4.9 Water and Water Rights

At this point in time, there do not appear to be any water rights or developments that are actually within either parcel in the proposed unit. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has filed for an instream flow on Rabbit Ears Creek that is still in water court and has not been decreed.

1.4.10 Road Maintenance

There are no roads within the unit receiving ongoing maintenance.

1.5 Topographic Maps

USGS 1:24,000 series topographic maps: Hyannis Peak, Gunsight Pass

Findings for the Troublesome Additions

1.6 Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

Does the area contain wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation)?

Yes, the assessed area contains wilderness characteristics on 2,345 acres, consisting of 544 acres in the northern portion (Troublesome North Addition), and 1,801 acres in the southern portion (Troublesome South Addition). Of the 3,613 acre total, 1,268 acres were determined to not have wilderness characteristics as a result of the following:

- In the northern portion, a 522 acre area contains a road that serves as the boundary road on the west side of the WSA. This road is used by a range permittee in conjunction with his grazing operation. It is also used to access an isolated parcel of private land and it is used to access the Rabbit Ears Creek Ditch which is a perpetual Right-of-Way.

- In the southern portion of the assessed area, a 746 acre area east and west of the Bighorn Subdivision has impacts to naturalness and solitude. The BLM lands in this area are on ridgelines where the subdivision and ranchlands are visible and dominate the viewshed.

1.6.1 Naturalness

Yes, the Troublesome assessment area has retained a natural landscape. The steep nature of the topography and limited access to the area has limited impacts from human activity. There are no known range improvements in the area. There is one route in the southern portion of the area that extends off of private land in the Bighorn Subdivision. The route has evidence of construction (cut/fill), but has no known improvements and has no record of maintenance. BLM will not authorize maintenance on the route if it became impassable. The route is substantially unnoticeable. There is an irrigation ditch (Rabbit Ears Creek) that was excluded from the northern portion of the area. There is no record or evidence that the ditch has been maintained in several years. A visitor will have to be within 100 yards or directly on the ditch to notice it due to the dense forest canopy. As a result, the impact of the ditch to the area's naturalness has been determined to be substantially unnoticeable.

1.6.2 Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude

Yes, as a result of the dense forest canopy, a visitor to the area is quickly isolated. There are no human developed trails in the northwest parcel, so a visitor navigates using game trails or simply traveling cross-country. There is a developed horse trail in the southeast parcel that connects to the short route coming out of the Bighorn Subdivision. The trail eases navigation through the forest, but there is limited travel on the trail. The forest buffers any human created sound, so even if a visitor is close to a boundary, there are few sounds of human activity. The limited access into the Troublesome area also enhances a visitor's opportunity for solitude. A visitor must have access through private lands or access the area through adjacent National Forest lands.

1.6.3 Outstanding Opportunities for a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Yes, physical qualities of the landscape are important to producing opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The diverse topography and vegetation consisting of aspen stands, and dense forests have helped to maintain remoteness, and offer the visitor challenging and primitive recreation experiences such as but not limited to: hiking, horseback riding, and hunting.

1.7 Supplemental Values

1.7.1 Ecological

The Troublesome Additions contain a portion of the Upper Troublesome Creek Potential Conservation Area (PCA), proposed by the CNHP for their biodiversity significance. CNHP also identified that the site provides other values including aesthetic and recreational values. The northern addition area contains a designated Significant Plant Community of Drummond Willow, an aquatic sedge that is identified G2S2 under the CNHP Natural Community classification system. The plant community occurs along Rabbit Ears Creek. The classification of G2S2 means that the plant is considered imperiled globally and within the State of Colorado.

1.7.2 Cultural

Limited inventory has occurred in the assessed area. BLM cultural data shows one cultural resource site, which is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

1.7.3 Wildlife

The Troublesome Additions offer wildlife habitat for populations of elk, deer, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, lynx, raptors, coyote, and a variety of small birds and other small animals.

The Troublesome Additions encompasses mapped moose, mule deer and elk summer range defined by that part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located between spring green-up and the first heavy snowfall. The unit takes in CPW mapped winter range for Elk. The timbered portions of the assessed area also are habitat for the Northern Goshawk, a BLM designated Sensitive Species.

A portion of the assessed area is within mapped lynx potential habitat, defined as those areas having the highest potential of lynx occurrences.

1.7.4 Scenery

The area has been inventoried and recognized for its Class II scenery which is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.

1.7.5 Geological

The northern parcel has outstanding geological features created as a result of volcanic activity, which are also identified as the outstanding remarkable value identified in the 2007 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Report.



Wilderness Characteristic Assessment

Area 2 – Drowsy Water

2.1 Area Description

The Drowsy Water area is located approximately 7 miles northeast of Hot Sulphur Springs and 4 miles northwest of Granby. It includes lands north of Hwy 40 to the BLM boundary with the Arapahoe/Roosevelt National Forest. Drowsy Water Creek bisects the unit running north to south.

2.2 Background

The area assessed in this appendix was included as part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 and later as part of the Intensive Wilderness inventory process in 1980. The original inventory evaluated 9,860 acres and determined that the area did not qualify for wilderness study.

The rationale for not carrying the area forward as a WSA was the impact that 14 miles of routes and an abandoned irrigation ditch had on the naturalness of the area.

2.3 Landscape Characteristics and Issues

2.3.1 Land Ownership and Acreage

The assessed area is 7,508 acres. The difference in size between the 1980 inventory and this current inventory results from using different boundaries to define the unit. The 1980 inventory used the McQueary Creek Road as the western boundary. The current inventory uses a boundary line that excludes impacts from historic timber management that were not identified in the original inventory (including old logging roads and clear cut units) east of the McQueary Creek Road. The 1980 inventory unit defined the northern boundary as the boundary with the National Forest. The current inventory also uses the forest boundary with one exception. The current inventory excludes the impacts from historic timber management in T. 2N., R. 77W., sections 5 and 6, 6th P.M.. The 1980 inventory used the boundary between BLM and private lands as the eastern and southern boundaries of the unit. The current inventory uses the road that follows Smith Creek and connects Smith Creek with Drowsy Water Creek as the southeastern boundary. All 7,508 acres are BLM administered lands.

2.3.2 Topography

The Drowsy Water area exhibits a variety of topography from rolling hills to steep slopes with flat mesa-like tops. The area ranges in elevation from 7,900 to mesa tops of 10,300 feet. Some of the steeper slopes on the sides of these mesas rise 2,000 feet in less than one mile.

2.3.3 Vegetation

The area has three different vegetation types. The southern sections on southwestern slopes contain sagebrush and associated grasses and forbs. Stands of lodgepole pine intermixed with aspen stands occupy the higher elevations and north to northeast slopes. The other vegetation type in the unit is the riparian vegetation along Drowsy Water Creek and McQueary Creek.

2.3.4 Existing Issues

Like the Troublesome area, public access into this area is difficult. The main access roads into the area follow Drowsy Water Creek and Smith Creek from the south off of U.S. Highway 40. The mouths of both creeks are privately owned, so a visitor will need permission to cross private property to access the area. Visitors can access the area from the west off of the McQueary Creek road and from the north through national forest lands. There are three outfitters permitted in the area that offer horseback trail riding. The single track routes that have evolved from the equestrian activity are now being used by motorcycles. Monitoring suggests the motorized use has increased in recent years as opportunities on adjacent forest lands have been lost due to new travel restrictions. This increased use is creating conflicts between the motorized and non-motorized trail users. As more motorcycle riders use the area, new routes are being created. The other significant user-group in the area consists of big game hunters, resulting in an increase of OHV use during the fall hunting seasons.

The current mountain pine beetle epidemic has impacted the lodgepole pine in the unit. BLM estimates suggest 75 - 80% of the lodgepole pine in the unit are either dead or will die as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

2.4 Current Management Allocations/Prescriptions

2.4.1 Travel

The 1984 RMP designated the area open for cross-country motorized travel. Under the 1988 Travel Management Plan, the McQueary Creek Road is closed seasonally from Labor Day through June 1st.

2.4.2 Visual Resource Management

The 1984 RMP did not designate visual resource management (VRM) classes. Visual resources have been managed to protect the visual resource inventory (VRI) adopted as part of the 1984 RMP. As part of the current revision of the RMP, the VRI has been updated. The northern half of the area is inventoried as VRI Class II, and the southern half is inventoried as VRI Class IV.

2.4.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers

There are no eligible Wild & Scenic segments in the area

2.4.4 Recreation Activities and Recreation Setting Character Conditions (RSCCs)

The physical qualities of the landscape can be classified and mapped looking at a spectrum of RSCC classes based on distance from motorized and mechanized routes. Using the existing KFO GIS transportation data, the RSCC mapping shows 14% classified as back country, 65 percent classified as middle country, 19 percent classified as front country and the remaining 2 percent classified as rural (see *Recreation Setting Character Conditions Matrix and Map* at the end of this Assessment).

2.4.5 Grazing

Livestock grazing occurs on three allotments. There are two developed springs in the unit. No other range improvements are known to exist.

2.4.6 Realty and Rights of Ways (ROWS)

There are no ROWs in the unit.

2.4.7 Oil and Gas Leasing

The area is open to leasing. There are no active leases in the area. The northwest two thirds of the unit are mapped as low potential for oil and gas, and the southeast one third is mapped as moderate potential.

2.4.8 Minerals

The area is open to mineral entry.

2.4.9 Water and Water Rights

Table H-2: Summary of Water and Water Rights, Drowsy Water Assessment Area

Name	Water Case	Adjudicated Date	Appropriated Date	Decreed Amount	Decreed Uses	Comments
Drowsy Water Creek Instream Flow	86CW208	12/31/1986	3/14/1986	1 cfs	instream	
Lost Cow Spring	W0467 90CW0111	12/31/1971	4/17/1926	0.002 cfs	Livestock Domestic	Federal reserved water right
Mushroom Spring	82CW216 Amended 3 of 6	12/31/1982	9/30/1981	0.005 cfs	Livestock Wildlife	Developed spring.

The Drowsy Water Creek Instream Flow contains BLM's segments of McQueary Creek, Drowsy Water Creek, and unnamed tributaries to Willow Creek and Smith Creek. The BLM has two decreed springs within the unit that help provide water and good livestock distribution. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has an instream flow decree on Drowsy Water Creek. The right is for the entire segment (headwaters to the Colorado River) and is for 1 cfs, year round. The right was decreed in Case #86CW208, Water Division 5. Most of the private irrigation ditches are located downstream of the BLM. There is an irrigation ditch that starts on BLM in Sec. 17 (approximate UTM: Easting 410669.91 m, Northing 4443347.07 m). The ditch travels the west side of Drowsy Water Creek and appears to irrigate meadows northwest to west of Drowsy Water Ranch. The ditch is not identified in the CDSS records. There is a concrete structure in or adjacent to the creek that may be associated with the ditch. It appears, however, that there are no valid water rights on the ditch.

BLM's Lost Cow Spring in Section 17 is part of the Interlocutory Decree, which asserted a federal reserved water right for the spring. It is unclear whether there are structures associated with the spring above the road, or whether at present time, the spring flows undeveloped near the road.

Mushroom Spring's source is located within the unit, but a pipeline and trough are located outside of the unit on the other side of the road.

2.4.10 Road Maintenance

There are no roads within the area receiving ongoing maintenance.

2.5. Topographic Maps

USGS 1:24,000 series topographic maps: Hot Sulphur Springs, Cabin Creek

Findings for Drowsy Water

2.6. Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

Does the area contain wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation)?

Yes, the entire 7,508 acres within Drowsy water contains wilderness characteristics. Findings differ from the original inventories done in 1979 as the original inventories included additional acres with additional routes, which contributed to a finding that the area lacked naturalness. Reducing the size of the assessed area eliminated the Smith Creek route and the route that connects Smith Creek and Drowsy Water Creek. Additionally, sections of the route along Drowsy Water Creek were washed out during high spring runoff in the 1990s which has helped reduce the impact of the route to the area's naturalness.

2.6.1 Naturalness

Yes, the inventoried area is representative of the transition zone between the Colorado River valley and the higher lodgepole pine forest. The topography includes rolling hills, steep slopes and mesa tops. The vegetation transitions with elevation changes. The lower elevations are dominated by sagebrush with pockets of aspen in the drainages. The higher elevations are dominated by a lodgepole pine forest with pockets of spruce and fir on north facing slopes. Drowsy Water Creek and McQueary Creeks flow through the unit.

Imprints of Man:

There are two developed springs for rangeland management in the area, one in T. 2N., R. 78W., sec 13 and one in T. 2N., R. 77W., sec17, 6th P.M.. These spring developments are not noticeable to the casual observer.

There is an abandoned irrigation ditch in T. 2N., R. 77W., sections 17, 18, and 19, 6th P.M.. There is no Right-of-Way on the ditch. The ditch has a minor impact on the naturalness of the area. The ditch is visible from the way along Drowsy Water Creek, but does not substantially impact the naturalness of the area.

There is an old cabin in T. 2N., R. 78W., sec 12, 6th P.M. (see attached photo). The cabin is in the lodgepole timber, several hundred yards from the route in the same section. The cabin is used by big game hunters during the fall hunting season. The presence of the cabin has a minor impact to the naturalness of the area.

There are five routes in the unit. These routes fit the description of a ‘way’ as opposed to a ‘road’, since they are roadlike features that may be used by four wheel vehicles but they do not receive regular maintenance. All the ways are used to access the interior of the unit. The current impact to naturalness from these ways is their width and the evidence of motorized use. If a visitor is a short distance off these ways, they are not noticeable.

The condition of the route that was identified in 1980 that follows Drowsy Water Creek has changed since the original 1980 inventory. The beginning of the route has been washed out from high flows in Drowsy Water Creek. This has reduced traffic on the route and allowed it to return to a more natural state. The Smith Creek route identified in 1980 is not included in this inventory. As a result, the impacts to naturalness from the routes in the unit identified as part of the 1980 inventory no longer exist.

2.6.2 Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude

Yes, a visitor to the northern part of the unit will have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the dense forest cover. The opportunities for solitude are somewhat diminished in the southern part of the unit due to the open sage slopes. Visitors have a higher visibility due to the openness of the vegetation. Recent travel management decisions on the adjacent Arapahoe National Forest have restricted motorized travel to the northern boundary of the unit. The result is that fewer visitors will enter the area from the north. Most visitors will be concentrated in the major drainages of Drowsy Water and McQueary Creeks and along the mesa/ridge tops. A visitor that travelled in the numerous side drainages to these creeks will find ample opportunities for solitude.

2.6.3 Outstanding Opportunities for a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Yes, physical qualities of the landscape are important to producing opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The diverse topography and vegetation consisting of aspen stands, and dense forests have helped to maintain remoteness and offer the visitor challenging and primitive recreation experiences such as but not limited to: hiking, horseback riding, and hunting.

2.7 Supplemental Values

2.7.1 Cultural

Limited inventory has occurred in the assessed area. BLM cultural data shows five cultural resource sites, none of which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

2.7.2 Wildlife

The Drowsy Water unit offers wildlife habitat for populations of elk, deer, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, lynx, raptors, coyote, porcupine, squirrels, chipmunks, sage grouse, and a variety of small birds and other small animals.

The Drowsy Water unit encompasses mapped moose, mule deer and elk summer range defined by that part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located between spring green-up and the first heavy snowfall. The unit takes in CPW mapped winter range created for moose, mule deer and elk winter concentration areas. CPW mapped elk winter concentration and elk severe winter range are be found in the Strawberry unit. The area is also critical winter range for mule deer. The timbered portions of the assessed area also is habitat for the Northern Goshawk, a BLM designated Sensitive Species.

A portion of the assessed area is within mapped lynx potential habitat, defined as those areas having the highest potential of lynx occurrences.

2.7.3 Scenery

The majority of the area has been inventoried and recognized for its Class II scenery, which is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.



Wilderness Character Assessment

Area 3 - Strawberry

3.1 Area Description

The Strawberry assessment area is located three miles east of Granby and one mile north of Tabernash. The area is bounded on the west and southwest by the Fraser River Canyon, on the west and north by private lands and on the east by national forest lands.

3.2 Background

The area assessed in this appendix was included as part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979. The area, identified as the Behler Creek Unit, was less than 5,000 acres, so it was not carried forward as part of the intensive inventory. No map was included in the Initial Inventory documents, so it is uncertain what the boundaries of the unit were. It is assumed that the additional acres being assessed here resulted from lands that were acquired since the 1980 inventory from land exchanges with a private entity in 2000 and the State of Colorado in 2002. These additional lands are in T. 2N., R. 76W., sec36 and T. 1N., R. 76W., sec36, 6th P.M.. The original inventory also noted that timber management activities impacted the area's naturalness. The areas where timber management activities had occurred have been removed from the analysis area.

3.3 Landscape Characteristics and Issues

3.3.1 Land Ownership and Acreage

The Strawberry area covers a total of 5,834 acres of BLM lands.

3.3.2 Topography

The topography consists of primarily steep slopes that drop into drainages that flow south and west into the Fraser River. Elevation ranges from 8,200 feet along the Fraser River to over 9,700 feet on the high ridges in the northern part of the unit.

3.3.3 Vegetation

At the lower elevations, the vegetation includes open sagebrush slopes on the south to east facing slopes near the river and lodgepole pine on the north and west facing slopes. The higher elevations are predominately lodgepole pine with intermixed aspen, blue spruce and Douglas fir. Behler Creek bisects the northern part of the unit, generally flowing from east to west. Riparian vegetation is present along the entire reach of the Behler Creek and Strawberry Creek drainages and several other springs and seeps within the assessed area.

3.3.4 Existing Issues

The Strawberry area is a popular place for local residents to recreate. Recreation includes both motorized and non-motorized trail users. Adjacent to the southeast boundary of the assessed area (outside the assessed area) is an established system of motorcycle trails. Conflicts exist between the motorized and non-motorized trail users, and between the motorized trail users and adjacent private property owners. Recent implementation of national forest travel management decisions that closed adjacent forest lands to motorized use has increased these conflicts. The closing of adjacent forest lands to motorized travel has also led to increased numbers of user created trails on BLM lands. The increase in these trails has compounded the conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.

The current mountain pine beetle epidemic has impacted the lodgepole pine in the unit. Current BLM estimates suggest 75 - 80 percent of the lodgepole pine in the unit are either dead or will die as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

3.4 Current Management Allocations/Prescriptions

3.4.1 Travel

The 1984 RMP designated the area open for cross-country motorized travel with seasonal road closures for vehicles. While designated as open in 1984, cross country travel within the assessed area has not been an issue due to steep terrain and existing vegetation. Under the 1988 Off Road Vehicle Implementation Plan, seasonal road closures were addressed and the Strawberry area was identified as a deferred implementation area for designating routes. Additional lands acquired through land exchanges in 2000 and 2002 were designated as "limited to designated routes". Time and resources have not allowed for travel management planning and development of a designated route system in the remainder of the area.

3.4.2 Visual Resource Management

The 1984 RMP did not designate visual resource management (VRM) classes. Visual resources have been managed to protect the visual resource inventory (VRI) adopted as part of the 1984 RMP. As part of the current revision of the RMP, the VRI has been updated. The entire area has been inventoried as VRI Class II.

3.4.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers

There are no eligible Wild & Scenic segments in the unit.

3.4.4 Recreation Activities and Recreation Setting Character Conditions (RSCCs)

Currently the assessed area offers excellent opportunities for primitive recreation activities such as hunting, hiking, camping, photography and horseback riding. The physical qualities of the landscape can be classified and mapped looking at a spectrum of RSCC classes based on distance from motorized and mechanized routes. Using the existing KFO GIS transportation data, the RSCC mapping shows 6 percent classified as back country, 40 percent classified as middle country, 30 percent classified as front country and the remaining 24 percent classified as rural (*see Recreation Setting Character Conditions Matrix and Map in at the end of this assessment*).

3.4.5 Grazing

Livestock grazing occurs within one allotment in the northern part of the unit. There are no known range improvements within the unit.

3.4.6 Realty and Rights of Ways (ROWS)

There is one ROW for a road that accesses private property in the northeast part of the unit.

3.4.7 Oil and Gas Leasing

The area is open to leasing. There are no active leases in the area. The entire unit is mapped for no potential for oil and gas.

3.4.8 Minerals

The area is open to mineral entry.

3.4.9 Water and Water Rights

The Strawberry Unit contains portions of the Fraser River, Behler Creek, and Strawberry Creek. There are several seeps within the area, but none with decreed water rights. Since the unit is near Granby and tributary to the Fraser River, there is more water right activity than some of the other inventory units with diversions above the unit.

Strawberry Creek: Downstream of the private inholding on Strawberry Creek is the Vail Irrigation System Headgate Number 2. The headgate and ditch are privately owned and operated, taking water from Strawberry Creek, Meadow Creek, and Meadow Creek

Reservoir. The owner, an irrigation company, has an agreement with the city of Englewood for 850 AF of storage in Meadow Creek. Water from the reservoir and from Meadow Creek is transferred into Strawberry Creek upstream of the parcel. In multiple field visits, the ditch (headgate number 2) was diverting all of the available streamflow. The streambed below the structure ranges from totally dry to some ponded water. The ditch is in active use with yearly maintenance. The berm on the south to west side of the ditch is fairly wide, allowing good access to the entire ditchline on BLM lands. The ditch was originally decreed for a 125 cfs conditional right (CA0183). In 1915, 10.32 cfs was changed to absolute (CA0259), and an additional 53.18 cfs in CA0772. In 84CW641, 40 cfs were abandoned, leaving 63.5 cfs absolute and 21.5 cfs conditional. In the 1991 court case, the applicant pled for the remaining conditional rights to be made absolute as they had diverted 85 cfs. The case was protested and the judge ruled that diligence had not been proved, and the remaining 21.5 cfs was abandoned. In 34 years of record for the ditch, the ditch is generally turned on in May and carries water to September, with 18 years into the month of October reported. The downstream segment has not been checked in the winter months to verify flows below the ditch. It appears that at least one other ditch right also uses the Vail Ditch to convey their water- the Rocky Ridge Ditch right. It appears that the Strawberry Ditch No 1 and the Deberard Ditch are actually downstream of the boundary, but even if inside, the water rights are no longer diverted but used to offset diversions associated with Granby Ranch.

There are a number of well permits that are filed on BLM lands within the assessment area that are questionable. It is assumed that the reported well locations should have been filed under Range 76.5 West, rather than 76 West. Those with listed UTM locations are also likely in error and are probably located within the private inholdings.

Table H-3: Summary of Water and Water Rights, Strawberry Assessment Area

Name	Water Case	Adjudicated Date	Appropriated Date	Decreed Amount	Decreed Uses	Comments
Strawberry Crk Instream Flow	90CW0295	12/13/1990	11/27/1990	1 cfs (10/1-4/14) 2 cfs (4/1-9/30)	Instream Flow	From unnamed tributary to the Vail Ditch
Fraser River Instream Flow	90CW308B	12/31/1990	11/27/1990	19 cfs (9/16-5/14) 30 cfs (5/15-9/15)	Instream Flow	From Crooked Crk. confluence to confluence with the Colo. River
Vail Irrig.	CA0772	8/3/1911	9/22/1909	53.180	Irrigation	Current status of right: 63.5 cfs

Table H-3: Summary of Water and Water Rights, Strawberry Assessment Area

Name	Water Case	Adjudicated Date	Appropriated Date	Decreed Amount	Decreed Uses	Comments
Sys Hgt No 2	CA0259 CA0183 91CW0094 84CW0218	8/3/1911 8/3/1911 8/3/1911 8/3/1911	9/22/1909 9/22/1909 9/22/1909 9/22/1909	cfs 10.320 125.00 21.50 40.00		absolute. 34 years of diversion records show minimum flow of 15 cfs, maximum of 75-95 cfs.
Rocky Ridge Ditch	CA0259 (86CW309)	3/18/1911	11/9/1909	4 cfs		Diverted into Vail Ditch,
Deberard Ditch (88)	CA0112 W1881	8/11/1906 8/11/1906	5/19/1891 5/19/1891	0.75 cfs 0.75 cfs		Used in past to irrigate pasture, Now bypassed for Val Moritz Domestic Aug. Plan.... Ditch itself appears to be just outside of boundary? T. 1N., R. 76W., Sec. 3, SWNWNE, 6 th P.M.
Strawberry Ditch No. 1	CA0112 W1881	8/11/1906 8/11/1906	5/20/1891 5/20/1891	2.5 cfs 2.5 cfs		Past irrigation, now used as bypass flow for Val Moritz Domestic Aug. Plan Ditch location? T. 1N., R. 76W., Sec. 2, SWNENW, 6 th P.M.
The following well permits are on BLM administered lands, but appear to be in error.....						
		Date Filed	Date Expires	Reported Yield	Use	Location
Well Permit	Permit #100688	1979		3 gpm	Domestic	Location: T. 1N., R. 76W., Sec 2, SWNW, 6 th P.M., UTM 4436699.1m,

Table H-3: Summary of Water and Water Rights, Strawberry Assessment Area

Name	Water Case	Adjudicated Date	Appropriated Date	Decreed Amount	Decreed Uses	Comments
						426270.1 m ??Pole Creek Lot 12
Well Permit	Permit #277490					T. 1N., R. 76W., Sec. 24, NWSE, 6 th P.M., 1600 ft. from South Line 2100 ft from East Line- Filing 2, Lot 30, Winter Park Highlands
Well Permit	Permit #94134 VE	1994		8 gpm	Domestic	T. 1N., R. 76 W., Sec. 23, SWSE, 6 th P.M., Winter Park Highlands Lot 13
Well Permit	Permit #94234			18 gpm	Domestic	T. 1N., R. 76 W., Sec. 1, NENE, 6 th P.M, UTM: 4,437,081.6 m Northing, 4288,952.1 m Easting
Well Permit	Permit #18009			10 gpm	Domestic	T. 1N., R. 76 W., Sec. 1, NWNE, 6 th P.M., UTM: 428,628.1 m Easting, 4,437,081.6 m Northing

3.4.10 Road Maintenance

There are no roads within the area receiving ongoing maintenance.

3.5 Topographic Maps

USGS 1:24,000 series topographic maps: Strawberry Lake, Granby

Findings for Strawberry

3.6 Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

Does the area contain wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation)?

Yes, while there has been timber management activities in the Strawberry area since the 1960s, those areas impacted are not part of the assessed area boundary. The assessed area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The impacts of the timber management activities have left the area adjacent to the assessed area impacted but will not be noticed unless directly next to or within areas where timber management activities occurred. There are opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

3.6.1 Naturalness

Yes, the unit has retained a natural appearing landscape within the assessed area. The assessed area does not include areas where timber activities have occurred, with the remainder of the area having an unmodified landscape that has maintained its natural qualities. Non-maintained routes that are cherry-stemmed within the assessed area will not detract from the area's overall naturalness unless a visitor was to cross them. The current impact to naturalness from these routes is their width and the evidence of motorized use. The routes have evidence of construction (cut/fill), but no record of maintenance. If a visitor is a short distance off these routes, they are not noticeable. The west boundary of the assessed area is a railroad ROW that visitors to the area may hear depending on their location within the unit. However, the noise is fleeting, is not omnipresent and will be limited due to the topography.

3.6.2 Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude

Yes, the Strawberry area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude within the north and central portions of the unit. While the old logging routes adjacent to and cherry-stemmed in the assessed area are open for motorized travel, they occur primarily within timber, are primarily used during hunting seasons and are not highly visible if a visitor is a short distance off of these routes. The topography of the area limits motorized or mechanized travel primarily to these routes that are considerably unnoticeable unless someone is to cross them. While some ridges and areas offer vistas in open sage country, other portions contain drainages with rugged landscapes, dense timber and other vegetation where one would find isolation and seclusion. In conclusion, the assessed area's size in conjunction with diverse

topographic screening, dense timber and other vegetation provide visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude where one could find isolation and be secluded from others.

3.6.3 Outstanding Opportunities for a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Yes, physical qualities of the landscape are important to producing opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The diverse topography and vegetation consists of dense forests and aspen stands, and offers the visitor challenging and primitive recreation experiences such as: hunting hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing and photography. While portions of the unit were mapped as front country and rural, the physical qualities remoteness mapping does not take into consideration the topographic vertical relief of the drainages. The topography of the area physically separates impacts and the landscape reflects truly a more primitive classification. The adjacent USFS lands are designated as management prescription 1.3 “Backcountry Recreation” emphasizing non-motorized recreation opportunities and augment those found in the assessed area. Within the unit there are no recreation developments or marked trails, and signs and visitor controls are very minimal.

3.7 Supplemental Values

3.7.1 Ecological

This area contains the Road End Seep at Strawberry Creek PCA and a portion of the Behler Creek PCA, proposed by the CNHP for their biodiversity significance. CNHP also identified the site provides other values including aesthetics and open space. As well, the area is an important wildlife habitat providing a year round water source and lush vegetation.

3.7.2 Geological

The Fraser Canyon within the assessed area has examples of Interbasin Canyon Erosion Fault Blocks that are not found elsewhere in the Fraser Valley vicinity. These examples can provide educational opportunities.

3.7.3 Scenery

The area has been inventoried and recognized for its Class II scenery which is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.

3.7.4 Cultural

Limited inventory has occurred in the assessed area. BLM cultural data shows three cultural resource sites, one site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

3.7.5 Wildlife

The Strawberry unit offers wildlife habitat for populations of elk, deer, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, lynx, raptors, coyote, porcupine, squirrels, chipmunks, sage grouse, and a variety of small birds and other small animals. The 1984 Kremmling RMP identified the land use priority within the assessed area for wildlife, where public lands are committed to important wildlife habitat.

The Strawberry unit encompasses mapped moose, mule deer and elk summer range defined by that part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located between spring green-up and the first heavy snowfall. The unit takes in CPW mapped critical winter range created by combining deer data analysis units (DAUs), mule deer winter concentration areas, severe and critical winter range. CPW mapped elk winter concentration and elk severe winter range are be found in the Strawberry unit. The timbered portions of the assessed area also is habitat for the Northern Goshawk, a BLM designated Sensitive Species.

A portion of the assessed are is within mapped lynx potential habitat defined as those areas having the highest potential of lynx occurrences.

Management and Setting Prescriptions for Areas with Wilderness Characteristics

The following setting and management prescriptions are intended to protect the values associated with wilderness character including: naturalness, primitive recreation, solitude, scenic, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, cultural resources, economic benefits from recreation and desirability as a place to live, quality of life, custom/culture, and balanced use.

Activities. The following activities should not occur within lands having wilderness characteristics if:

- Construction of new permanent or temporary roads,
- Use motorized vehicles or mechanical transport off designated routes,
- Construction of new structures, developments, or installations, and
- Authorization of new commercial enterprises.

Allowed activities within lands having wilderness characteristics, as appropriate depending upon the character of an individual area:

- Managing fire, insects, weeds, and diseases,
- Completing recurring Federal mineral surveys,
- Continuing established livestock grazing,
- Allowing for commercial services to the extent necessary to provide for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness character purposes and are compatible with the defined values, and
- Allowing for adequate access to inholdings.

Valid Existing Rights. Specific exemptions/allowances are made for prior-existing rights may continue. New discretionary uses that create valid existing rights are not allowed if they would detract from the wilderness values.

Administrative Activities. New commercial activities or new permanent roads will not be authorized. BLM may authorize the other prohibited uses if it is necessary to administer and protect the lands with wilderness character and to protect the health and safety of persons within the area.

Emergencies. Within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, the use of motor vehicles and mechanical transport, and the construction of temporary roads, structures, and installations are allowed for emergency purposes, but must be conducted to achieve the least disturbance and reclaimed as soon as possible.

Land Disposals, Rights-of-Way (ROWs) and Use Authorizations.

- Lands with wilderness characteristics will be retained in public ownership. They will not be disposed through any means, including public sales, exchanges, patents under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, or other actions.
- Prior existing rights, such as leases under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leases/permits under 43 CFR 2920, and rights-of-way (ROWs) may continue. These also could be renewed if they are still being used for their authorized purpose.
- The BLM will acquire State and private inholdings or adjacent lands when practicable. In unique situations and subject to public review, exchanges may be made involving Federal and non-Federal lands when such action would significantly benefit that area's wilderness characteristics.
- New authorizations (leases, permits, and ROWs) will not be authorized.

Routes of Travel. The construction of new permanent or temporary routes or roads will not be allowed. No cross-country motorized or mechanized travel will be allowed within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics. However, motorized or mechanized use of pre-existing travel routes that are necessary for transportation and designated in the plan will be allowed subject to applicable prescriptions or stipulations. Motorized and mechanized routes must be minimized, and closure and restoration of unnecessary routes will be prioritized to enhance and protect wilderness characteristics. Any motorized or mechanized use off designated routes will not be allowed.

Locatable Minerals. Within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, existing and new mining operations will be regulated using the 43 CFR 3809 regulations to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the lands.

Leasable Minerals. Within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, existing mineral leases represent a valid existing right. These rights are dependent upon the specific terms and conditions of each lease. Existing leases will be regulated to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. No new leases will be issued.

Grazing. Within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, existing livestock grazing, and the activities and facilities that support a grazing program are permitted to continue. Adjustments in the numbers and kind of livestock permitted to graze will be made as a result of revisions in the land use plan. Consideration is given to range condition, the protection of the range resource from deterioration. The construction of new grazing facilities will be permitted if they are primarily for the purpose of protecting wilderness characteristics and more effective management of resources, rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock. The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes is allowed.

Fire Management. Within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, fire management will be consistent with the current FMP.

Forest/Vegetation Health. Within areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, insects, disease, and invasive species may be controlled if it is determined that it is necessary to meet the minimum requirements to administer and protect these lands.

- Insect and disease outbreaks must not be artificially controlled, except to protect timber or other valuable resources outside the land with wilderness characteristics, or in special instances when the loss to resources may cause adverse impacts to wilderness characteristics.
- Vegetative manipulation to control noxious, exotic, or invasive species is allowed when there is no effective alternative and when the control is necessary to maintain the natural ecological balances within the area. Control may include manual, chemical, and biological treatment provided it will not cause adverse impacts to the wilderness characteristics.

Recreation. Primitive and unconfined recreational uses such as hiking, camping, rock climbing, caving, fishing, hunting, trapping etc. are allowed on these lands. Recreational uses will not be allowed if they require:

- Motor vehicles or mechanical transport (e.g., mountain bikes) off routes designated as open or limited through the route designation process;
- Permanent structures or installations (other than tents, tarpaulins, temporary corrals, and similar devices for overnight camping). New commercial services will not be allowed unless they are necessary for realizing the primitive and unconfined recreational values. An example of an allowed commercial service would be an outfitting and guide service.
- Existing commercial recreational authorizations may be allowed to continue under its terms and conditions to their expiration date.
- No competitive events will be authorized.
- Recreational or hobby collecting of mineral specimens when conducted without location of a mining claim may be allowed. This use will be limited to hand collection and detection equipment.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources. Cultural and paleontological resources are also important supplemental values to an area's wilderness characteristics.

- Resource inventories, studies, and research involving surface examination may be permitted if it benefits wilderness values. This same standard applies for the salvage of archeological and paleontological sites.
- Rehabilitation, stabilization, reconstruction, and restoration work on historic structures; excavations; and extensive surface collection may also be permitted if they maintain the area's wilderness character.
- Permanent physical protection, such as fences, will be limited to those measures needed to protect resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and will be constructed so as to minimize impacts on apparent naturalness.

Wildlife Management. Fish and wildlife resources are a special feature that contributes to an area's wilderness character. Whenever possible, these resources should be managed to maintain that character. Nothing will be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State agencies with respect to fish and wildlife management on these lands.

- Fishing, hunting and trapping are allowable activities on these lands. The State establishes regulations and enforcement for these uses.
- Stocking of wildlife and fish species native to the area may be permitted. Introduction of threatened, endangered, or other special-status species native to North America may be allowed.
- Management activities on these lands will emphasize the protection of natural processes.
- Management activities will be guided by the principle of doing the minimum necessary to manage the area to preserve its natural character.

Visual Resource Management. Manage areas under VRM Class I